

Application No.: 09/865947

Case No.: 55758US002

Remarks

Claims 1, 14-18, and 20-34 are pending. Claims 2-13 and 19 have been canceled. Claims 22 to 34 have been added.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by MacKay Jr. (US 3,667,169).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of canceled claim 3, which was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicants submit McKay does not anticipate or suggest amended claim 1.

Claim 17 has been amended to require an abrasive layer secured to the first major surface of the backing plate, wherein the abrasive layer comprises a substrate and a plurality of abrasive particles secured to the substrate by a binder. Applicants submit McKay does not anticipate or suggest amended claim 17.

Claim 18 depends from claim 17. For at least the same reasons, claim 18 is not anticipated or suggested by McKay.

Applicants request withdrawal of these rejections and request a Notice of Allowance.

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Objections

Claims 14 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 14 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form. Withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 17, from which claim 21 depends, is patentable for the reasons discussed above. Applicants submit that claim 21 is likewise patentable.

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New Claims

Claim 22 has been added. Claim 22 incorporates all the limitations of previously objected to claim 19. It is submitted that claim 22 is in condition for allowance. Claims 23-33 depend from and further limit independent claim 22. It is submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 34 depends from amended claim 17. It is submitted that this claim is in condition for allowance.

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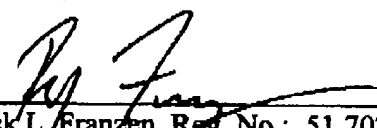
Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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